

HB 475 -- COURT ORDERS REGARDING CHILD ABUSE

SPONSOR: Lant

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill requires the court clerk to send a certified copy of any judgment or order to the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services when the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that an individual is responsible for child abuse or neglect and in every case in which a person has pled guilty or has been found guilty of specified crimes involving murder, manslaughter, assault, or sexual offenses against children or an attempt to commit any of the crimes. Upon receipt, the division must list the individual as a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect in its central registry.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill requires a court to notify the Department of Social Services when by a preponderance of the evidence an individual is found to be responsible for child abuse or neglect. The goal is to ensure that the state is capturing all individuals who need to be on the central registry. The bill is not adding who is required to be on the registry nor is it changing the registry in any way, it is just a technical fix to ensure that the child abuse and neglect registry is complete. Testifying for the bill were Representative Lant; Department of Social Services; Missouri Kids First; and Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.